



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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Contacts: Frank Adinolfi or Matt Young

Release Number: 05 – 288, FL-10137/10138

Phone: 404-347-3771

SBA TO CLOSE TWO TEMPORARY OFFICES IN FRANKLIN AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will close two Disaster Outreach Centers in Franklin and Wakulla counties at the close of business on Friday, September 2. That means Hurricane Dennis victims in these areas have just one day left to get personal help with their SBA disaster loan applications, according to SBA Acting Disaster Area Director Frank Skaggs.

SBA disaster loan staff is still available to answer any questions you might have, help you complete your application and accept your completed application. The temporary offices will remain open in Franklin County at 208 Marine Street in Carrabelle and in Wakulla County at the Crawfordville Agriculture Center, 84 Cedar Avenue with hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., until Friday, September 2 when they will cease operation at the close of business.

Hurricane Dennis victims in the Franklin County area will still be able to visit SBA's workshop in East Point. The center will remain open in the East Point Volunteer Fire Department located at 24 6th Street, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., through the Labor Day weekend. Beginning Tuesday, September 6, the office will be open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., until further notice.

“Do not wait to settle your insurance claim before turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. We want to be sure you get the help you need to recover from the disaster. We do not want anyone to miss the September 8, application deadline for physical damages,” Skaggs said today.

SBA is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations that received damage during the disaster. For an individual with personal property and/or home losses, a completed application will also keep the door open to other types of assistance. Those who do not return a completed SBA application may be disqualifying themselves from other types of assistance, including possible grants.

Even insured victims of Hurricane Dennis should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) and register for assistance. “This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related needs,” Skaggs added.

Information on SBA loan applications is also available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (for the hearing-impaired 1-800-877-8339) or visiting the SBA Website at www.SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications can be returned to the centers or can be mailed to: Disaster Assistance Loan Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76155.

The deadline to return applications for physical damage is September 8; the deadline to return economic injury applications is April 10, 2006.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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